



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# PRESS RELEASE

**Police Department**  
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**Chief of Police**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## RIVERSIDE GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED IN LAREANZ SIMMONS MURDER



**CRISTIAN VELASQUEZ**



**MANUEL BARBARIN**

RIVERSIDE, CA – On Thursday, February 23, 2012, officers from the Riverside Police Department responded to the 2200 block of Georgia Street, after receiving numerous reports of a shooting in the area. Officers located a 14 year old male suffering from a gunshot wound. Personnel from the Riverside Fire Department and AMR transported the victim to Riverside Community Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Homicide Investigators responded to the scene and were assisted in their investigation by personnel from the Gang and Forensic Units. Information received at the scene indicated that a vehicle drove to the location and a male subject exited the vehicle.



The male subject then fired approximately 5-6 rounds; striking the victim. The victim, Lareanz Simmons, was a well-liked Riverside Poly High School student who was only 14 years old. Lareanz had no gang affiliation and was a popular, caring kid who was active in his community through his work with the Junior ROTC program.

On February 4, 2015, the Riverside Police Department's Homicide and Gang Unit filed charges against Cristian Velasquez, 23, and Manuel Barbarin, 24, both from Riverside, in connection with the murder of Lareanz Simmons. Both suspects are currently in custody on unrelated charges and are well documented gang members in Riverside's Eastside neighborhood. Detectives believe the shooting was gang motivated and racially motivated. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office filed charges on Cristian Velasquez and Manuel Barbarin for 187 PC, First Degree Murder with Special Circumstances, 190.2(a)(16) Hate Crime and 190.2(a)(22) Gang Violence. Both suspects are eligible for the death penalty.

Detectives are actively looking into a potential third suspect that may be involved in the murder. New developments and leads that have come to the attention of the handling detectives will be given priority in the investigation.

The Riverside Police Department is asking for the continued assistance from the public and wants to remind anyone with information to please contact Riverside Police Detective Adrian Tillett at 951-353-7105 or Detective Mike Medici at 951-353-7104. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact We Tip at 1(800)78-CRIME or 1(800) 782-7463.

All inquiries regarding the charges and court proceedings are to be referred to John Hall, Press Information Officer for the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. He can be reached at 951-955-8662 or by email at JohnHall@rivcoda.org

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